
Subject:

Email from Deanna Lynn Wulff

From: deanna@deannalynnwulff.com [<mailto:deanna@deannalynnwulff.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 8:42 AM

To: commentletters

Subject: Regarding the Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Chair Felicia Marcus and Board:

You have really important work ahead, and it's filled with complexity.

It took me nearly two years to truly understand the implications behind the Public Trust Recommendations and the Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. I wanted to know how much water was needed to resuscitate the ecosystem and whether we Californians are capable of saving it.

I spoke with the lead scientists behind the Water Board report. I interviewed farmers on the West Side of the San Joaquin River and in the Delta. I chatted with irrigation district managers on the east side, too. I drove to Los Angeles to learn about West Basin's advanced water recycling system. I spoke with citizens with drip-irrigation systems and drought-resistant landscaping in La Verne. I read the entire Delta Plan put out by the Delta Stewardship Council and took notes. I made an enormous effort on limited resources, because I care about my state.

With so much political rhetoric surrounding the issue, I wanted to be sure that I really understood the problems and the potential solutions.

Ultimately, I discovered that the environmental issues are not all that complicated. Fish need water, and we're taking too much water out of our rivers. We diverting so much that not enough is flowing to and through the San Francisco Bay-Delta, where more than 750 species live, and more than 30 are endangered including salmon and steelhead. We're sending a good portion of that water uphill into a desert with selenium-rich, alkaline soils, which once caused massive deformities of fish, livestock and birds at Kesterson Reservoir. Still, we have no notable place to drain those soils, and still, we're sending water that way. On top of that, we're depleting our aquifers and permanently damaging our environment—not because we need to—but in the name of short-term profit and long-term decay. It's not admirable. It's just sad.

What's worse is that we can actually solve our environmental problems with effective conservation, water recycling, technical advances and policy changes that reinforce them. With those changes will come new jobs and opportunities for innovators, entrepreneurs, farmers and the people who make California dynamic and wonderful.

But without effective policy and courage from our leaders, it won't work. That's where you come in. That's where you give the golden state its wings.

We can do amazing things when we work toward a sound and clear goal. I urge you to implement the highest standards of the public trust recommendations, so that they are protective of fish, wildlife, people and the future of this great state.

Sincerely,
Deanna Lynn Wulff